

# Skeletal Multiomic Atlas: Quick Start Tutorial and Case Studies

This tutorial provides step-by-step guidance on how to use the Skeletal Multiomic Atlas. It is intended as a quick-start guide for new users. It covers navigation from the homepage, use of the three main tools, and demonstration through three flagship case studies.

## Quick Start: How to Use the Atlas

### From the Homepage

The homepage of the Skeletal Multiomic Atlas presents three main entry **tools** (Figure 1):

1. **Human Reference Atlas** (Human healthy reference, multi-omic integration)
2. **Mouse Reference Atlas** ( Mouse healthy reference, multi-omic integration)
3. **Experiment Expression Viewer** (individual studies, mouse and human, including disease datasets)

Besides the two “multiomics reference atlas” and the “expression viewer”, users can find advanced **tools** in upper tab. These tools are [Co-expression](#), [Coefficient variant calculator](#) and [Expression Comparator](#) (cross-study exploratory comparisons)

Click on the icon or title of the tool you wish to use.

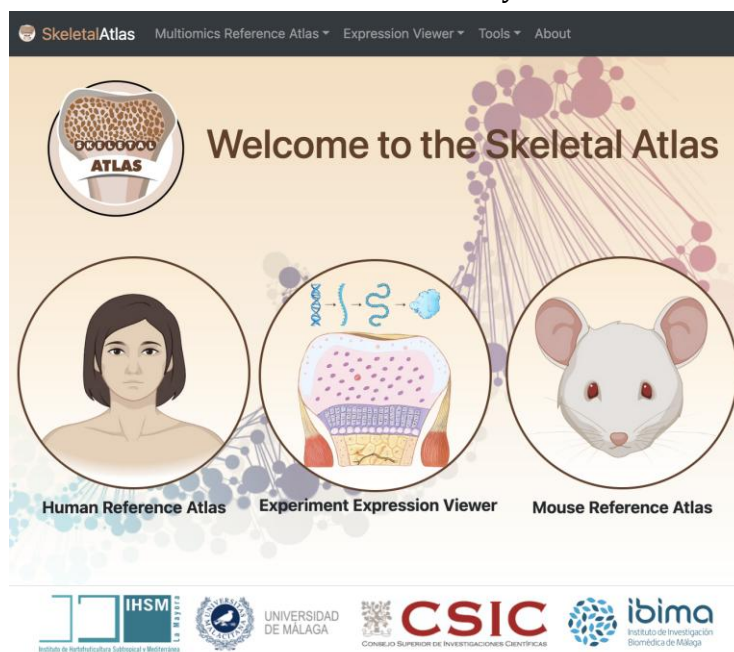


Figure 1. Front page of the Skeletal Atlas website, showing the three main entry points: Multiomics Reference Atlas, Experiment Expression Viewer, and Tools in upper tab.

## Tool 1 — Multiomics Reference Atlas

### Mouse or Human Reference Atlas

**When to use:** To survey baseline expression across mouse or human skeletal tissues using single-cell RNA-seq, bulk RNA-seq, and proteomics.

**Input screen** (Figure 2): Type a gene symbol (e.g., Col1a1) or paste a list of genes. Default skeletal marker list is provided. Click 'Get Expression'.

**Output screen** (Figure 3): Interactive panels showing expression in scRNA-seq, bulk RNA-seq, and proteomics. Additional views: bar graphs, heatmaps, replicates plots, and average values tables.

Figure 2. Input screen of the Multiomics Reference Atlas, where

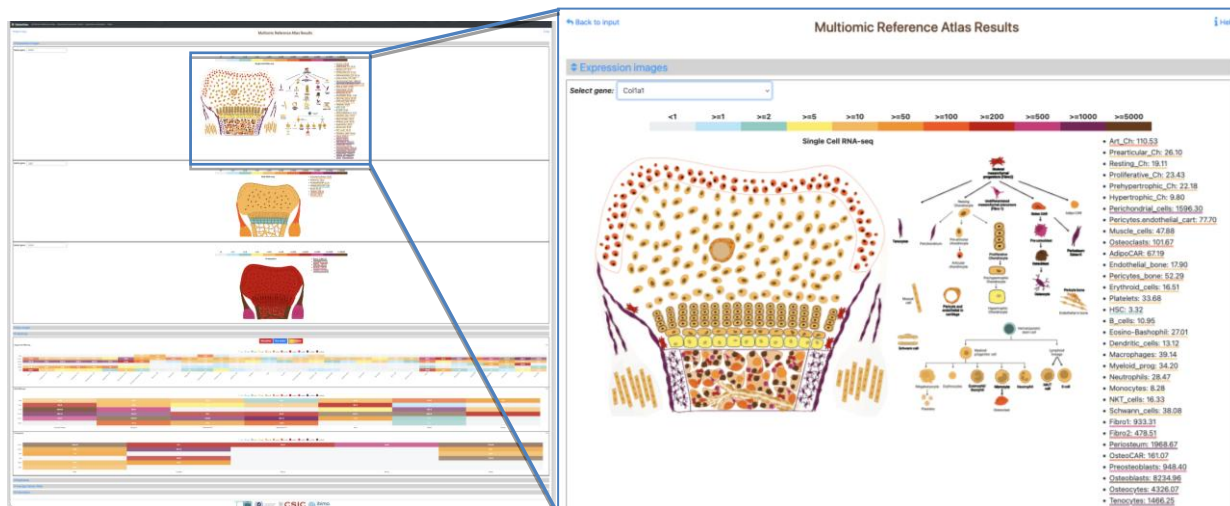


Figure 3. Multiomic Reference Atlas Output view: 3a. Detailed view of the Single Cell RNA-seq output, displaying cell populations and gene expression. 3b. Broad overview of the Multiomics Reference Atlas results page, showing multiple visualization panels including expression images, heatmaps, and replicates.

## Tool 2 — Experiment Expression Viewer (Single Studies)

When to use: To explore expression data from a single published study (human or mouse, healthy or diseased).

**Input screen** (Figure 4): Select category (e.g., Human Developmental Atlas, Mouse bulk RNAseq, Human scRNAseq) and then select a dataset. Input genes and click 'Get Expression'.

Figure 4. Input page of the Human Developmental Skeleton Atlas dataset, showing query options for gene expression analysis.

**Output screen** (figure 5): Study-specific interactive illustrations (where available), expression plots, heatmaps, replicates, and average values.

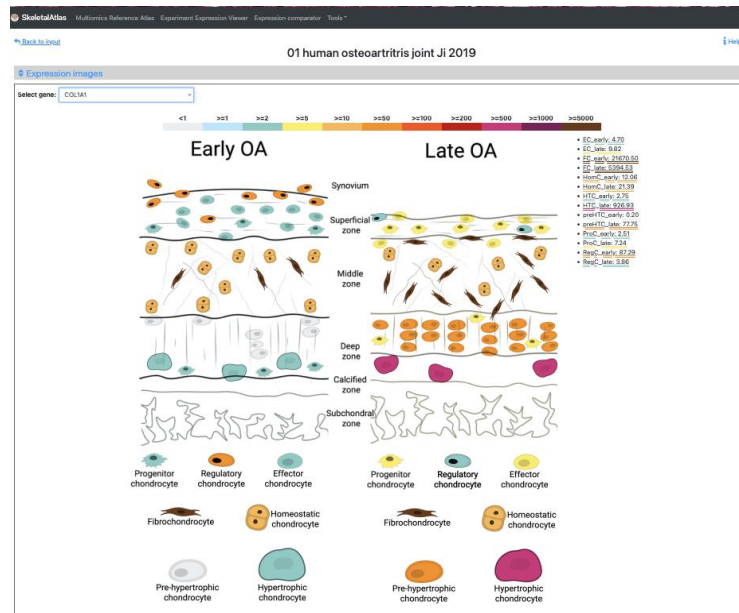


Figure 5. Example of the Osteoarthritis study output (Experiment Expression Viewer), illustrating side-by-side comparison of Early OA and Late OA tissues with associated cell populations.

**Co-expression:**

SkeletaAtlas Multimics Reference Atlas Expression Viewer Tools About

Coexpression Search

Insert a gene ID <sup>?</sup>

Col1a1

Select Dataset

mouse

mouse basic atlas bulk RNASeq

Search

SkeletaAtlas IHMS Universidad de Málaga CSIC ibima

Output screen (Figure 7): Results table beginning with your input gene, followed by genes with correlation  $\geq 0.8$ , ordered from highest to lowest correlation. The table includes several downloading options: CSV, Excel, PDF.

Each gene includes links to referenced information (e.g., gene pages, publications).

Search input

COLL1

CopyCSVExcelPDFPrintColumn-visibility\*

Filter by:

Select All

Search Gene

Search Correlation

Search ENSEMBL (human)

Search GenBank

Search RefSeq

Search HGNC

Search OMIM

Search Description

Search SwissProt

Search Description

Search TrEMBL

Search Description

Search InterPro

Select	Gene	%	Correlation	%	ENSEMBL (human)	%	GenBank	%	RefSeq	%	HGNC	%	OMIM	%	Description	%	SwissProt	%	Description	%	TrEMBL	%	Description	%	InterPro
<input type="checkbox"/>	COL1A1		1.0000		ENSG00000108821		1277		NP_000079		HGNC:2787		132950		collagen type I alpha 1 chain [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:2787]		P03452		Collagen alpha-1(I) chain [Alpha-1 type I collagen]						P030880 P030887 P030890 P030919 P030934  P030939 P0301280 P0301845 P031082 P0301369 P0301370 P030277 P030658 P030741
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPARC		0.9808		ENSG00000101340		6676		NP_01296372		HGNC:11078		187100		secreted protein acidic and cysteine rich [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:11276]		P03486		SPARC [Basement-membrane protein 40] (BM-40) [Cytokeratin] L.		B2DCL6		SPARC [Cytochrome] (Secreted protein acidic and rich in cysteine)		P030939 P0301280 P0301845 P031082 P0301369 P0301370 P030277 P030658 P030741
<input type="checkbox"/>	COL1A2		0.9802		ENSG00000164892		1276		NP_000080		HGNC:2798		107660		collagen type I alpha 2 chain [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:1798]		P08123		Collagen alpha-2(I) chain [Alpha-2 type I collagen]		A0A0I2ZJH6		Collagen type I alpha 2 isoform 1		P030885 P030892 P030299
<input type="checkbox"/>	SERPINF1		0.9791		ENSG00000132386		5176		NP_003056		HGNC:8824		173860		serpin family F member 1 [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:8824]		P36855		Pigment epithelium-derived factor (PEDF) [Cell proliferation induc., Oxytalan IQ2]		A0A16VW573		Tenascin tissue spgmn-binding protein LI 70n		P032796 P030896 A0A024778 P030076 P0301796 P030382 A0A024780
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TMEM78		0.9681		ENSG00000181760		338779		NP_856075		HGNC:27884		676859		transmembrane protein Y19 [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:27884]		G47676		Transmembrane protein Y19 (Stresskin induction factor) (SBIF)						P032814
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRKG		0.9381		ENSG00000168081		5368		NP_006279		HGNC:3963		601459		prorenin receptor [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:3963]		I031019		Preprorennin (Cleaved into Natriuretic Peptide) (Oxytalan FQ2) (PNNOC); Oxytalan FQ2)		AKR08		cDNA FLJ75734, highly similar to Homo sapiens preprorennin (L.)		P030287 P0306024
<input type="checkbox"/>	RN38		0.9472		ENSG00000142052		67333		NP_006701		HGNC:21445		679032		reticulocalbin 3 [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:21445]		Q06016		Reticulocalbin 3 (EF-hand calcium-binding protein RLPH8)						P030248 P0301092 P03018247
<input type="checkbox"/>	TMP1		0.9470		ENSG00000122855		7076		NP_003245		HGNC:18820		305570		TMP metalloproteinase inhibitor 1 [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:18820]		P01033		Metalloproteinase inhibitor 1 (Dryoidrol-potentiating activity) (SPA --)		Q0F0X5		Metalloproteinase inhibitor 1 [Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases...]		P0301134 P0301020 P0300893 P0303490 P0301496
<input type="checkbox"/>	CORF1		0.9449		ENSG00000138039		10669		NP_01288253		HGNC:16962		630137		cell growth regulator with EF-hand domain 1 [Source:HGNC Symbol; Acc:HGNC:16962]		Q09074		Cell growth regulator with EF hand domain protein 1 [Cell growth re...						P030048 P0301092 P03018247 P0300247

Figure 7. Output screen of the co-expression tool using an example in search of genes with similar expression pattern to *Col1a1*

## Coefficient of Variation Calculator

**When to use:** Use this tool to evaluate the expression stability of genes across samples within one or several studies in the Skeletal Atlas. It helps identify genes with low variability (useful as reference or housekeeping genes) or assess the consistency of expression for genes of interest across biological replicates, tissues, or experimental conditions.

**Input screen** (Figure 8): In this screen, users can browse all available samples in the Skeletal Atlas, organized by study or publication. The user can then select whether to calculate the Coefficient of Variation using:

Replicates — to assess technical or biological consistency within a study.

or

Mean of samples — to evaluate expression variability across averaged datasets.

Figure 8. Input screen of the CV calculator. Users can select to perform analysis among any sample in the atlas

**Output screen** (Figure 9): Here users can find a summary table listing the 10 genes with the lowest CV, representing the most stably expressed genes in the selected dataset(s). Also, a search tab allows users to look up any gene of interest and instantly visualize its coefficient of variation across the chosen samples or studies. Below the table, a boxplot displays the expression distribution of the selected gene across all samples, providing a visual overview of its variation and stability.

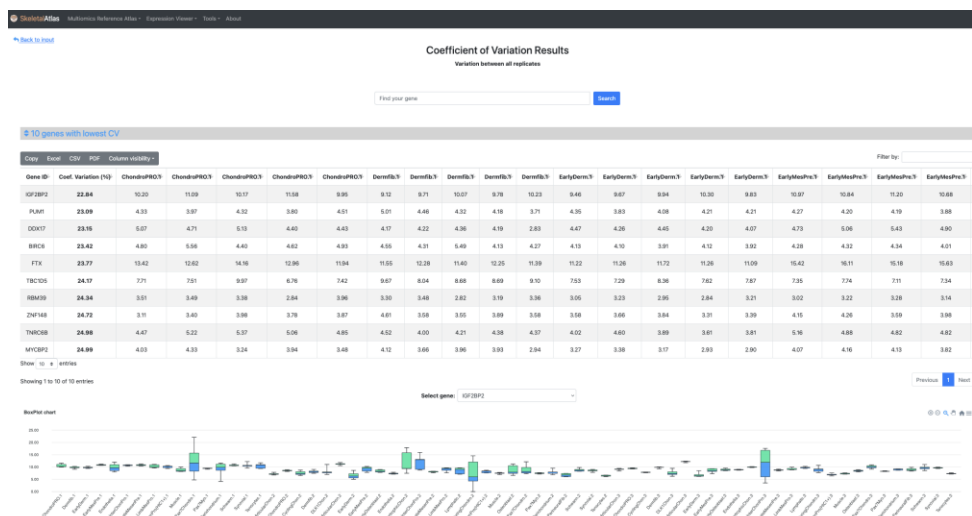


Figure 9. Output screen of the CV calculator tool using as an the single cell study of human development.

## Expression Comparator (Exploratory, Cross-Study)

**When to use:** To compare gene expression across multiple datasets. Use with caution due to cross-study variability.

**Input screen:** Enter gene(s), optionally provide housekeeping genes for normalization, select log2 transformation, and select datasets (Figure 10) or individual samples/cell types (Figure 11).



**Expression Comparator**

Find your gene/metabolite by name:

Paste a gene ID or list of gene IDs to be used for fold change calculation.

Select samples

00 Human Developmental Skeleton Atlas  
☐ HUMAN DEVELOPMENTAL SKELETON ATLAS

01 Mouse single cell RNAseq  
☐ growth plate scRNAseq Aged Wt

02 Mouse Bulk RNAseq

<input type="checkbox"/> 01 mouse EphrA2 bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 02 mouse Wnt7b overexpression bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 03 mouse Piezo1 bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 04 mouse Tet1-2 bone
<input type="checkbox"/> 05 mouse VEGF bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 06 mouse Oscar OA	<input type="checkbox"/> 07 mouse Bglap-Bglap2	<input type="checkbox"/> 08 mouse Olx-olx Crtap ko
<input type="checkbox"/> 09 mouse Osteomyelitis IACM	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 mouse Osteomyelitis pretreatment IL-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 mouse Disuse bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 mouse Hbb dko cartilage
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 mouse Klrklf2 cko cartilage	<input type="checkbox"/> 14 mouse Hsf1a bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 mouse Bgn bone	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 mouse premature osteocytes death
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 mouse OI Col1a1-Het and Sost ko			

03 Human Bulk RNAseq

<input type="checkbox"/> 00 human basic atlas v02	<input type="checkbox"/> 01 human ACL tears meniscus injury PRJNA430860	<input type="checkbox"/> 02 human LOMD12 PRJNA837196	<input type="checkbox"/> 03 human OA NOF fracture PRJNA436762
<input type="checkbox"/> 04 human OA PRJNA454873	<input type="checkbox"/> 05 human OA cartilage PRJNA857975	<input type="checkbox"/> 06 human ROD PRJNA798962	

04 Human single cell RNAseq  
☐ 01 human osteoarthritis joint J. 2019

Figure 10. Expression Comparator input page, where users can select multiple datasets and genes to perform cross-study comparisons.

SkeletalAtlas
Multimics Reference Atlas
Experiment Expression Viewer
Expression comparator
Tools

02 Mouse Bulk RNAseq

☒ 01 mouse EphrinB2 bone  
☐ Wt\_EphrinB2  
☐ EphrinB2\_cko

☒ 02 mouse Wnt7b overexpression bone  
☐ Wnt7b\_OE  
☐ Wt\_Wnt7b

☒ 03 mouse Piezo1 bone  
☐ Wt\_Piezo1  
☐ Piezo1\_cko

☒ 04 mouse Tet1-2 bone  
☐ Tet1-2\_cko  
☐ Tet1\_cko  
☐ Tet2\_cko  
☐ Wt\_Tet

☒ 05 mouse VitC bone  
☐ VitC\_Gulotm1Mae\_15weeks  
☐ VitC\_Gulotm1Mae\_20weeks  
☐ Wt\_VitC

☒ 06 mouse Oscar OA  
☐ OA\_Oscar-ko\_dmm\_2weeks  
☐ OA\_Oscar-ko\_dmm\_4weeks  
☐ OA\_Oscar-ko\_sham\_2weeks  
☐ OA\_Oscar-ko\_sham\_4weeks  
☐ Wt\_OA\_dmm\_2weeks  
☐ Wt\_OA\_dmm\_4weeks  
☐ Wt\_OA\_sham\_2weeks  
☐ Wt\_OA\_sham\_4weeks

☒ 07 mouse Bglap-Bglap2  
☐ Wt\_Bglap-Bglap2  
☐ Bglap-Bglap2\_ko

☒ 08 mouse Oi oim-oim Crtap ko  
☐ Oi\_Crtap\_ko  
☐ Oi\_oim-oim  
☐ Wt\_Oi

☒ 09 mouse Osteomyelitis IAOM  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_Control\_14days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_Control\_3days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_IAOM\_14days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_IAOM\_3days

☒ 10 mouse Osteomyelitis pretreatment IL-27  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_control.GFP\_14days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_control.GFP\_1day  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_control.GFP\_3days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_control.GFP\_7days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_treatment\_IL27\_14days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_treatment\_IL27\_1day  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_treatment\_IL27\_3days  
☐ Osteomyelitis\_treatment\_IL27\_7days

☒ 11 mouse Disuse bone  
☐ Disuse\_Control  
☐ Disuse\_HLU

☒ 12 mouse Hbb cko cartilage  
☐ Wt\_Hbb  
☐ Hbb\_cko

☒ 13 mouse Kindlin2 cko cartilage  
☐ Wt\_Kindlin2  
☐ Kindlin2\_cko

☒ 14 mouse HNF4a bone  
☐ Wt\_HNF4a  
☐ HNF4a\_cko

☒ 15 mouse Bgn bone  
☐ Fracture\_Bgn\_ko  
☐ Wt\_Fracture  
☐ No\_Fracture\_Bgn\_ko  
☐ Wt\_No\_Fracture

☒ 16 mouse premature osteocytes death  
☐ Wt\_DTA  
☐ DTA\_heterozygous

☒ 17 mouse Oi Col1a1Jrt-Het and Sost ko  
☐ Oi\_Col1a1Jrt-het  
☐ Oi\_Col1a1Jrt-het\_Sost\_ko  
☐ Wt\_Oi\_Col1a1

03 Human Bulk RNAseq

☒ 00 human basic atlas v02  
☐ ArticularCartilage  
☐ Epiphysis  
☐ GrowthPlate  
☐ Bone  
☐ Tendon  
☐ Muscle

☒ 01 human ACLtears meniscus injury PRJNA430860  
☐ ACL\_injury\_only  
☐ ACL\_injury\_Meniscus.tear

☒ 02 human LGMDR12 PRJNA837196  
☐ Healthy\_patient  
☐ LGMD.R12\_patient

☒ 03 human OA NOF fracture PRJNA436762  
☐ Healthy\_NOF.fracture  
☐ OA\_hip\_cartilage

☒ 04 human OA PRJNA454873  
☐ Healthy.cartilage  
☐ OA.cartilage

☒ 05 human OA cartilage PRJNA857575  
☐ Healthy\_cartilage  
☐ Osteoarthritic\_cartilage

☒ 06 human ROD PRJNA798962  
☐ HR.ROD  
☐ Healthy.ROD  
☐ LR.ROD

04 Human single cell RNAseq

☒ 01 human osteoarthritis joint Ji 2019  
☐ EC\_early  
☐ EC\_late  
☐ FC\_early  
☐ FC\_late  
☐ HomC\_early  
☐ HomC\_late  
☐ HTC\_early  
☐ HTC\_late  
☐ preHTC\_early  
☐ preHTC\_late  
☐ ProC\_early  
☐ ProC\_late  
☐ RegC\_early  
☐ RegC\_late

Figure 11. Dataset selection screen within the Expression Comparator, displaying available mouse and human bulk and single-cell RNAseq datasets.

**Output screen:** Comparative plots and tables. Interpret as hypothesis-generating.

**Best practice:** Avoid cross-species comparisons; focus on within-species and comparable tissue/cell types.



## Step-by-Step Example: Mouse Reference Atlas

This example illustrates a complete workflow in the Mouse Multiomics Reference Atlas, using the gene *Col1a1* as a query. It shows input, output, and different visualization options.

1. Input gene symbol (Figure 12): Enter at least *Col1a1* in the query box and click 'Get Expression'.

Figure 12. Input page for Mouse Basic Atlas, showing default skeletal marker genes provided for quick analysis.

2. Expression output overview: The output page shows three panels (Single-cell RNA-seq, Bulk RNA-seq, and Proteomics), each with tissue/cell-type annotations and color-coded expression intensities.

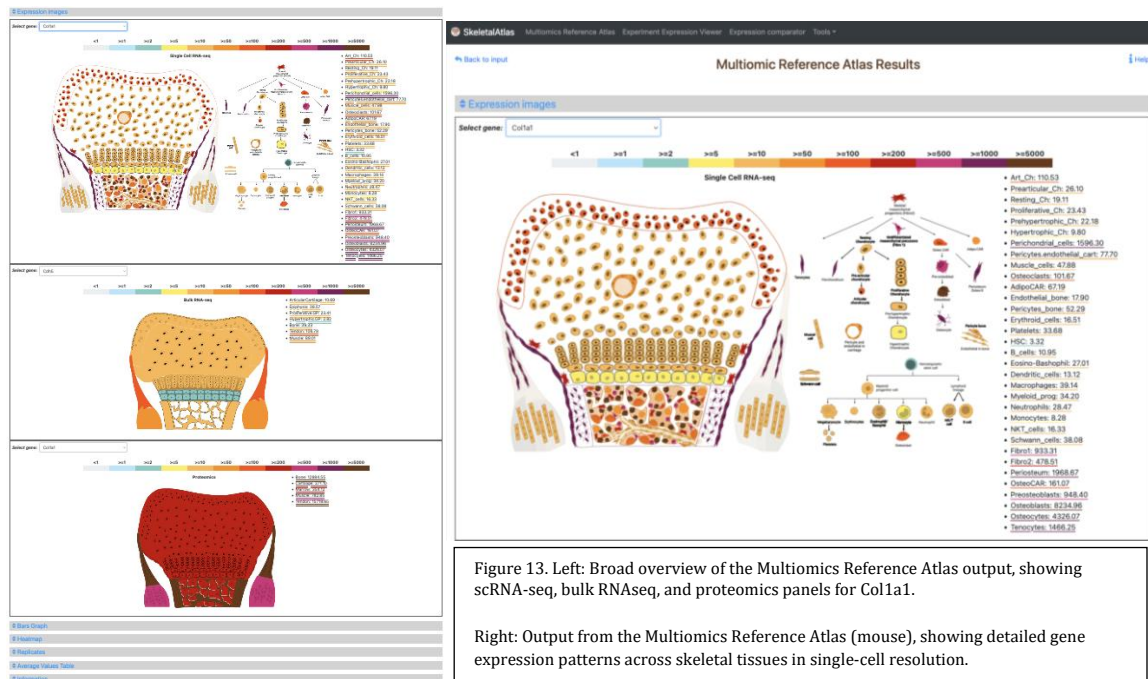


Figure 13. Left: Broad overview of the Multiomics Reference Atlas output, showing scRNA-seq, bulk RNAseq, and proteomics panels for *Col1a1*.

Right: Output from the Multiomics Reference Atlas (mouse), showing detailed gene expression patterns across skeletal tissues in single-cell resolution.



3. Alternative visualizations: Switch to 'Bars Graph' (Figure 14a), 'Heatmap' view (Figure 15), among other options, to compare Col1a1 expression across multiple tissues.



Figure 14. Bar graph visualization of Col1a1 and related genes across skeletal tissues in scRNA-seq, bulk RNAseq, and

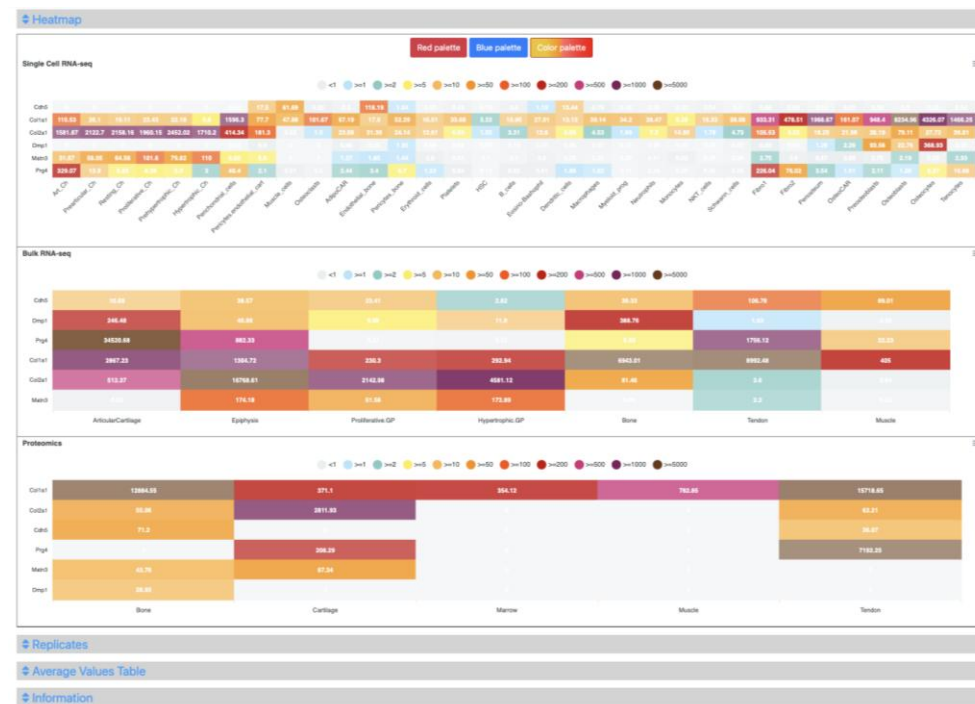
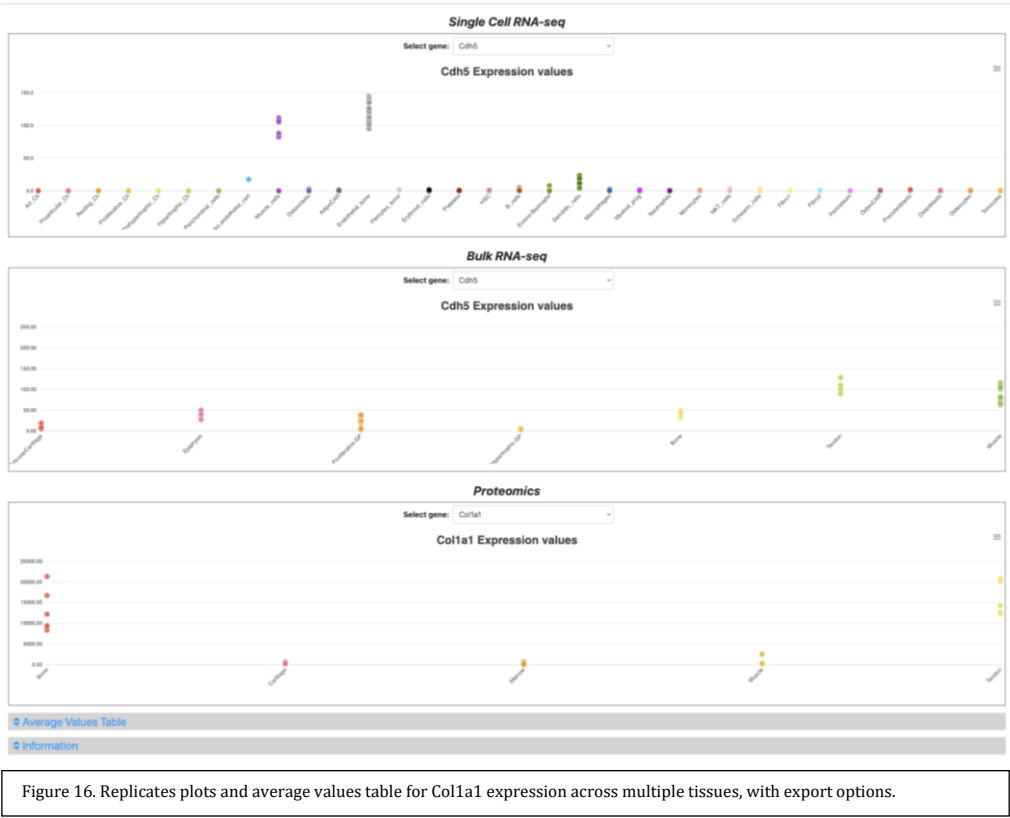


Figure 15. Heatmap visualization of Col1a1 and related genes across skeletal tissues in scRNA-seq, bulk RNAseq, and proteomics.

4. Replicates (Figure 16) and export options: Replicate plots show per-sample values, while the 'Average Values' table provides exportable CSV/Excel/PDF files.



This step-by-step demonstration provides a template for users to follow when analyzing their own genes of interest.

## Atlas Demonstration: Flagship Case Studies

### Case Study 1: Human Developmental Skeleton Atlas (HCA collaboration)

Steps: Open Experiment Expression Viewer → 00 Human Developmental Skeleton Atlas. Query COL1A1, COL2A1, PRG4, MATN3. Explore interactive illustrations across 5.7–11.2 pcw.

Outputs: Stage-specific schematics of the knee joint, expression values, and cell hierarchies (Figure 17).

Take-home: A unique developmental single-cell/nucleus reference for human skeletal biology.

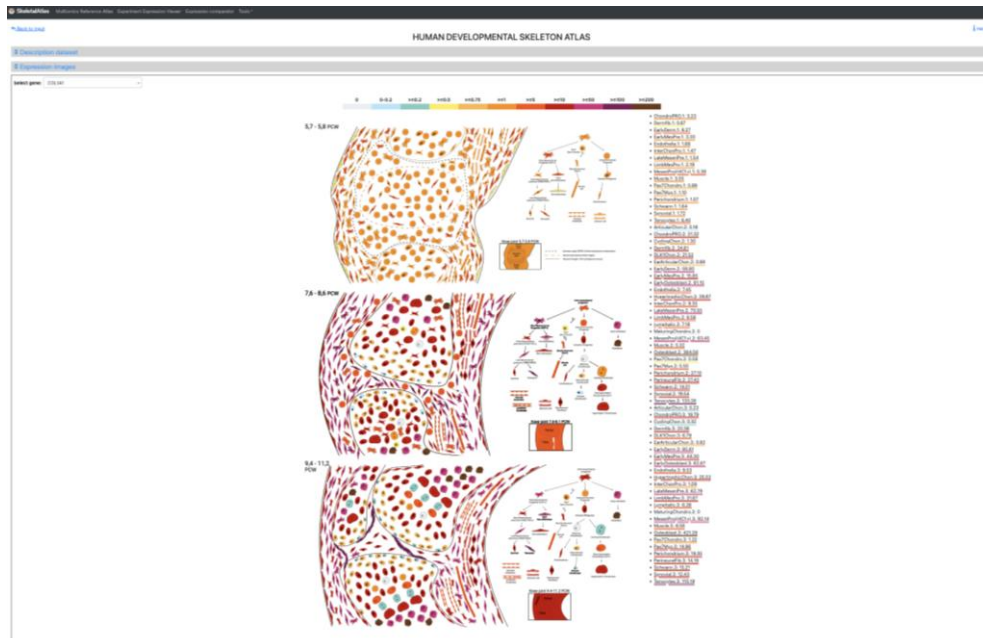


Figure 17. Human Developmental Skeleton Atlas (HCA): expression dynamics of COL2A1 across 5.7–11.2 pcw knee joint development.

## Case Study 2: Human Osteoarthritis single-cell dataset

Steps: Experiment Expression Viewer → 04 Human scRNAseq → OA dataset (Ji 2019). Query COL1A1.

Outputs: Side-by-side illustrations of healthy/early OA vs. late OA cartilage, showing chondrocyte state shifts (Figure 18).

Take-home: Intuitive visualization of OA progression at single-cell resolution.

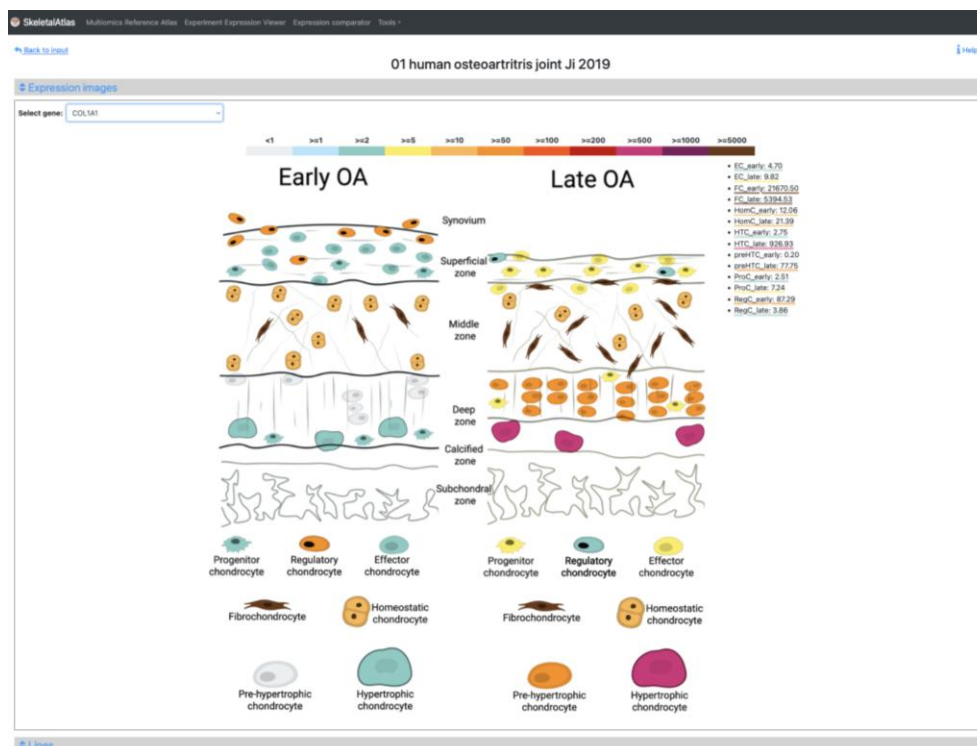


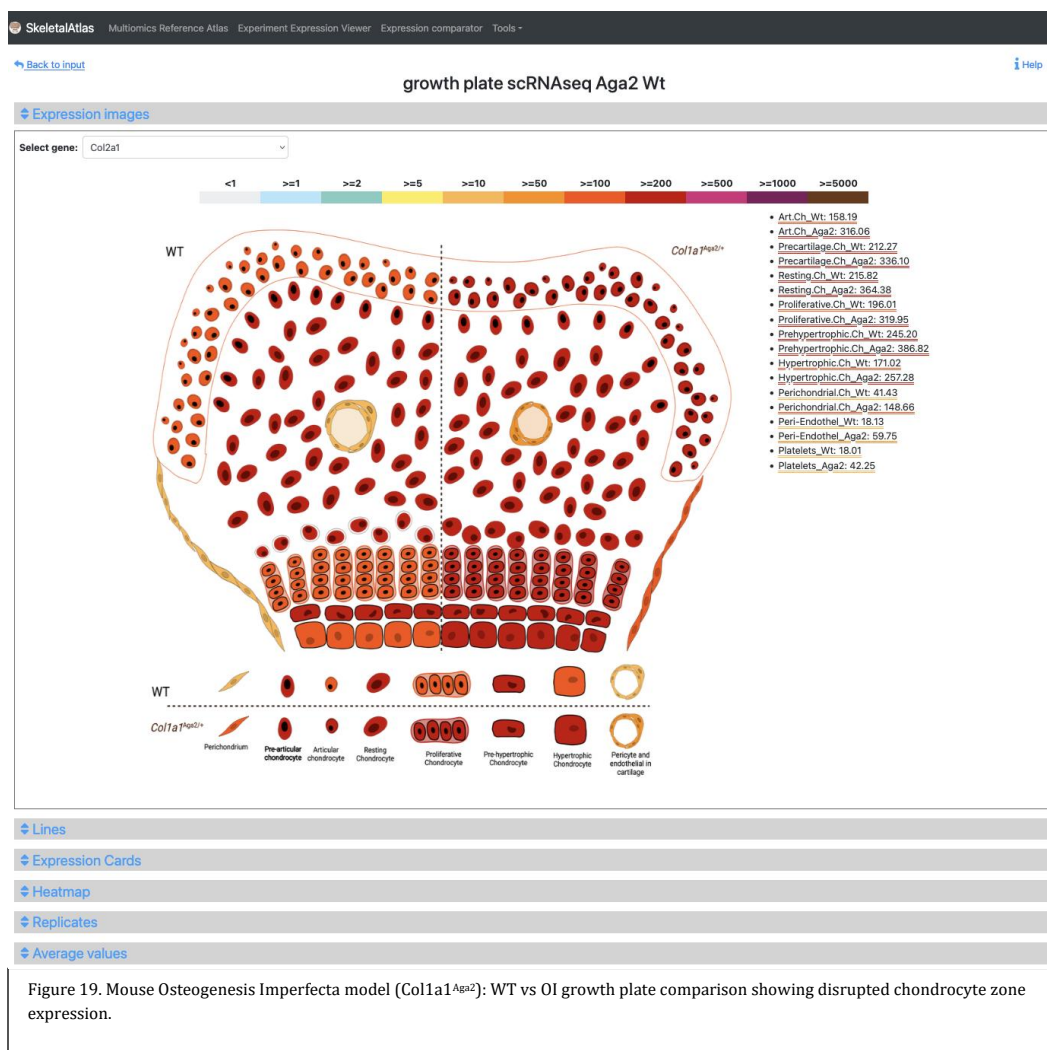
Figure 18. Human Osteoarthritis dataset: COL1A1 expression comparison between early OA and late OA cartilage, highlighting changes in chondrocyte populations.

### Case Study 3: Mouse Osteogenesis Imperfecta single-cell model

Steps: Experiment Expression Viewer → 01 Mouse scRNAseq → Col1a1<sup>Aga2</sup> (OI model). Query Col2a1 as key data in original study Zieba et al 2024.

Outputs: WT vs OI growth plate schematics with disrupted expression across chondrocyte maturation zones (Figure 19).

Take-home: Example of rare disease modeling in mouse, with potential for future expansion of the atlas.



## **Additional Datasets**

The Atlas also includes:

- Mouse bulk RNAseq datasets (osteoporosis, osteomyelitis, genetic knockouts, etc.)
- Human bulk RNAseq datasets (OA, ACL injury, fracture, renal osteodystrophy, rare diseases)
- Proteomic datasets from skeletal tissues.

These can be explored individually or in comparison mode.

## **Export and Reproducibility**

All result tables can be exported (Copy, CSV, Excel, PDF, Print). Users should document their dataset selection, housekeeping gene sets, and normalization choices when reporting results derived from the Atlas.